

IN THE CLAIMS

1-20. canceled

21. (new) A method of applying a thickened liquid hydrocarbon fuel oil to charcoal in a barbecue for lighting purposes comprising:

mixing a liquid hydrocarbon with an essentially paraffin polyolefin polymer in solid form to yield a thickened homogenous solution, characterized in that the liquid hydrocarbon comprises low odor kerosene having a flashpoint greater than or equal to 62 °C and the polymer has a molecular weight in the range of 1.4×10^6 to 2.0×10^6 , wherein the thickened liquid hydrocarbon fuel oil provides improved adhesion to and absorption of fuel on charcoal and enhanced burning time and burn rates; and

applying the thickened liquid hydrocarbon fuel oil to the charcoal in the barbecue for lighting of the charcoal.

22. (new) The method according to claim 21, in which the kerosene has a concentration of 90 to <100% by weight and the polymer has a concentration of up to 5% by weight.

23. (new) The method according to claim 21, in which the polyolefin polymer comprises a medium or high molecular weight polymer of an alkene.

24. (new) The method according to claim 23, wherein the alkene comprises a branched chain alkene.

25. (new) The method of claim 21, further comprising lighting the charcoal using the thickened liquid hydrocarbon fuel oil.